WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- 1. For use in a video recording device capable of storing a
 2 plurality of video programs on a disk drive, a video memory manager
 3 comprising:
 - a video memory controller capable of detecting that said disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller, in response to said detection, determines a first retention score associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and a second retention score associated with a second one of said plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and second video programs.
- 2. The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said video memory controller replaces said deleted least desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and describing said deleted least desirable video program.

- The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein
 said video memory controller compresses said least desirable video
 program prior to deleting said least desirable video program.
- 1 4. The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein
 2 said video memory controller deletes said compressed least
 3 desirable video program if said video memory controller determines
 4 that said disk drive still does not contain sufficient storage
 5 space to store said next-to-be-recorded program after compression
 6 of said least desirable video program has occurred.
 - 5. The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said video memory controller determines said first and second retention scores according to a plurality of factors associated with said first and second video programs.

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- The video memory manager as set forth in Claim 5 wherein 6. 1 said plurality of factors comprises at least one of:
- a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first 3
- and second video programs; 4
- relative fairness of deleting said first video if said 5
- first video is associated with a first user of said video recording 6
- device and said second video is associated with a second user of 7
- said video recording device; 8
- relative freshness of said first and second video <u>.</u>; 9 Ē programs; []10
- relative durations of said first and second video **≒**_11 Įij. programs compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded **[]12**
- []13 program;

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- relative similarity of a category of said first video program and a category of said second video program compared to a category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and
- at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated 17
- with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a 18
- television series associated with said first video program has been 19
- viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a 20
- user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide. 21
 - A video recording device comprising: 7.

a disk drive capable of storing a plurality of video
3 programs;

4 a video recording controller capable of receiving

5 incoming video programs from an external source and storing said

6 received incoming video programs on said disk drive; and

a video memory controller capable of detecting that said
disk drive does not contain sufficient storage space to store a
next-to-be-recorded program, wherein said video memory controller,
in response to said detection, determines a first retention score

associated with a first one of said plurality of video programs and

a second retention score associated with a second one of said

plurality of video programs, wherein said first and second

retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining said first

and second video programs respectively, and wherein said video

memory controller deletes a least desirable one of said first and

second video programs.

- 1 8. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7
- 2 wherein said video memory controller replaces said deleted least
- 3 desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and
- 4 describing said deleted least desirable video program.
- 1 9. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7 -27-

- 2 wherein said video memory controller compresses said least
- 3 desirable video program prior to deleting said least desirable
- 4 video program.

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- 1 10. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7
- 2 wherein said video memory controller deletes said compressed least
- 3 desirable video program if said video memory controller determines
- 4 that said disk drive still does not contain sufficient storage
- 5 space to store said next-to-be-recorded program after compression
- 6 of said least desirable video program has occurred.
- $\mathbf{1}$ 11. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 7
 - 2 wherein said video memory controller determines said first and
 - 3 second retention scores according to a plurality of factors
 - associated with said first and second video programs.

- 12. The video recording device as set forth in Claim 11 1
- 2 wherein said plurality of factors comprises at least one of:
- a user-entered rank ordering associated with said first 3
- and second video programs; 4
- 5 relative fairness of deleting said first video if said
- 6 first video is associated with a first user of said video recording
- 7 device and said second video is associated with a second user of
- said video recording device; 8
- relative freshness of said first and second video
- programs; []10
 - relative durations of said first and second video
 - programs compared to a duration of said next-to-be-recorded
 - program;
- # 13 relative similarity of a category of said first video
- **__**15 program and a category of said second video program compared to a
- 16 category of said next-to-be-recorded program; and
 - at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated 17
 - with said first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a 18
 - television series associated with said first video program has been 19
 - viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a 20
 - user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program quide. 21
 - 1 13. For use in a video recording device capable of storing a

- 2 plurality of video programs on a disk drive, a method of managing
- 3 the plurality of stored video programs comprising the steps of:
- 4 detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient
- 5 storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;
- 6 determining a first retention score associated with a
- 7 first one of the plurality of video programs;
- 8 determining a second retention score associated with a
- 9 second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first
- 10 and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining
- 11 the first and second video programs respectively; and
- deleting a least desirable one of the first and second
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- 1 14. The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising
- 2 the step of replacing the deleted least desirable video program
- 3 with a program abstract identifying and describing the deleted
- 4 least desirable video program.
- 1 15. The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising
- 2 the step of compressing the least desirable video program prior to
- 3 the step of deleting the least desirable video program.
- 1 16. The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising

- 2 the step of deleting the compressed least desirable video program
- 3 in response to a determination that the disk drive still does not
- 4 contain sufficient storage space to store the next-to-be-recorded
- 5 program after compression of the least desirable video program has
- 6 occurred.
- 1 17. The method as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising
- 2 the sub-steps of determining the first and second retention scores
 - according to a plurality of factors associated with the first and
- 4 second video programs.

The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein the plurality 1 of factors comprises at least one of: 2 a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first 3 and second video programs; 4 relative fairness of deleting the first video if the 5 first video is associated with a first user of the video recording 6 device and the second video is associated with a second user of the 7 video recording device; 8 relative freshness of the first and second video []10 programs; relative durations of the first and second video programs compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program; 12 relative similarity of a category of the first video **[]13** program and a category of the second video program compared to a 14 category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and **[]** 15 at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated 16 with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a 17

television series associated with said first video program has been

viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

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- 1 19. For use in a video recording device capable of storing a
- 2 plurality of video programs on a disk drive, a computer-readable
- 3 storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for
- 4 managing the plurality of stored video programs, the computer-
- 5 executable instructions comprising the steps of:
- 6 detecting that the disk drive does not contain sufficient
- 7 storage space to store a next-to-be-recorded program;
- 8 determining a first retention score associated with a
- 9 first one of the plurality of video programs;
- determining a second retention score associated with a
- $\mathbf{1}$ second one of the plurality of video programs, wherein the first
- and second retention scores indicate a desirability of retaining
- 13 the first and second video programs respectively; and
 - deleting a least desirable one of the first and second
 - video programs.

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- 1 20. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in
- 2 Claim 19 further comprising the step of replacing the deleted least
- 3 desirable video program with a program abstract identifying and
- 4 describing the deleted least desirable video program.

- 1 21. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in 2 Claim 19 further comprising the step of compressing the least 3 desirable video program prior to the step of deleting the least 4 desirable video program.
- 1 22. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in 2 Claim 19 further comprising the step of deleting the compressed 3 least desirable video program in response to a determination that 4 the disk drive still does not contain sufficient storage space to 5 store the next-to-be-recorded program after compression of the 1 least desirable video program has occurred.
 - 23. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in Claim 19 further comprising the sub-steps of determining the first and second retention scores according to a plurality of factors associated with the first and second video programs.

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- 1 24. The computer-readable storage medium as set forth in 2 Claim 23 wherein the plurality of factors comprises at least one of:
- a user-entered rank ordering associated with the first
 and second video programs;
- relative fairness of deleting the first video if the
 first video is associated with a first user of the video recording
 device and the second video is associated with a second user of the
 video recording device;
- relative durations of the first and second video programs
 compared to a duration of the next-to-be-recorded program;
 - relative similarity of a category of the first video program and a category of the second video program compared to a category of the next-to-be-recorded program; and
 - at least one of: 1) a program genre ratings associated

 with the first and second video programs; 2) a number of times a

 television series associated with the first video program has been

 viewed; and 3) a program rating derived from at least one of: A) a

 user rating; and B) a rating retrieved from a program guide.

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